

WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 27, 2010

Members Present:

Aaron Babicz, Novi
Zane Ballard, St. Johns
Marti Covert, Byron (MWA)
John Danaher, Niles
Mike Garvey, Otsego (MIAAA)
Mark Hagg, Onsted
Paul Johnson, Greenville

Randy Nesbit, Hart
Jeff Phillips, Owosso
James Richardson, Grand Haven
Michael VanHoven, Flushing
Keith Weiland, Harrison Twp.
Troy Zimmerlee, Lawrence

Staff:

Randy Allen
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2009-10 MHSAA Wrestling committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving wrestling issues and the tournament series. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process and charge of the Wrestling committee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Team Wrestling Finals Seeding Review: The committee reviewed the seeding process that was used for the first time in 2009. Suggestions were made to improve the process for future years and the consensus of the committee was that seeding has been a positive improvement to the team tournament.

National Federation Topics: A discussion took place regarding the NF rules making process. One rule concern dealt with the starting procedure when wrestlers begin in the referee's position. An extensive conversation took place regarding communicable skin disease issues and MRSA, specifically the health issues of headgear (and tape on the headgear) not being regularly cleaned. Two points of emphasis for 2010-11 will be these communicable disease issues along with guidelines for officials when making edge of the mat calls. Finally, the committee favors no change to the current weight classes in light of the NF study on high school weight classes.

Weight Monitoring Program: Members of the committee reviewed data on hydrostatic appeals, descent plans and the NWCA online weight monitoring program. Much discussion took place regarding skinfold assessors and potential conflict of interest situations. The committee favored making no change to current policies after much discussion.

Tournament Issues: The committee discussed cost containment issues at tournament sites, starting and season ending dates for 2001-11, Individual Final formats and officiating issues.

The committee supported the MHSAA drawing the starting weight on Monday the week of the Individual District, Individual Regional and Individual Final tournament. This change will be implemented immediately for the 2010 Individual tournaments. The committee took no action on a suggestion to increase the eligibility requirements of wrestlers competing in the Team tournament series.

A lengthy discussion also took place on concerns that the current wrestling season is still too long and the current season maximums regarding number of allowed days of competition needs to be reduced.

Out of Season Coaching Issues: The committee reviewed the circumstances under which a school coach may now work with four athletes at a time out-of-season during the school year.

Home Weigh-In: After a lengthy discussion, the committee affirmed that the benefits of the home weigh-in option and allowance for wrestlers still outweighed the concerns of some schools not being forthright with data or some school's administration being lax in following all published requirements of the current rule. MHSAA staff aggressively reviewed all school requirements for the home weigh-in prior to the current season for all school administrators and coaches and this will continue to be a point of emphasis moving forward. Two suggestions made by committee members included more harsh penalties for those schools found in violation of current home weigh-in protocols and continued education through the principals (MASSP) and athletic director (MIAAA) professional organizations.

Final Venues and Formats: The committee reviewed the current Final venues in Battle Creek and Auburn Hills, along with the format that each event uses.

Wrestling Cost Reductions for Local Schools: Different ideas were discussed that could reduce costs for member schools for regular season and MHSAA tournament competition. While no consensus was reached on a formal proposal, various options were identified if school budget issues worsen.

MHSAA Regulations: A long conversation took place on MHSAA Handbook, Regulation II, Section 10 (C) regarding the current prohibition of an athlete participating on two different teams (varsity and JV) on the same date in light of the uniqueness of scholastic wrestling.

WRESTLING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Revise the current Team Wrestling Finals seeding procedures that would allow the seeding committee to seed the top teams in each division (minimum of the top four teams). This would allow the seeding committee to seed more than four teams if there are additional teams that deserve seeding consideration beyond the top four teams (14-0).
2. Add additional language to *MHSAA Handbook*, Regulation II, Section 10 (C) to state that a contestant in any sport shall not compete on two different teams on the same date in the same sport except in wrestling (8-4).
3. Shorten the high school wrestling season by one additional week, placing the Team and Individual Finals on the last two weekends in February. In addition, the maximum number of days of competition would be reduced to 14 (currently 16) and teams and individuals would be limited to seven (currently eight) events in which a wrestler may participate in more than two matches (13-0).